

Program B: Support Services

Program Authorization: Louisiana Revised Statutes 45:1177 (a, b, & d); 45:1180 and 45:1181

Program Description

Ensure that rates for services passes on to Louisiana citizens by regulated carriers are based on reasonable, allowable, recoverable operating costs and prudent investments incurred by jurisdictional companies in providing the services. Provide technical support and assistance to the citizens regarding regulation of utility and common carrier companies. Review, analyze and investigate rates and charges filed before the Commission with respect to prudence and adequacy to those rates in order to provide reliable and affordable service to customers while allowing the regulated utility to maintain a reasonable and fair rate of return.

Provide all parties to ad judicatory hearing a fair and impartial hearing. Ensure that jurisdictional company rates are fair and reasonable to the consumer and at the same time provide a fair rate of return to the company. Provide the Commission with accurate reporting of regulated utility and common carrier companies' financial condition; level of earnings; rate of return, adherence to federal, state, local and PSC laws, regulations and guidelines to assist in decision-making responsibilities. Provide unbiased recommendations, economic and statistical analysis of the activities pertaining to the performance, conduct and the business of utilities in accordance with the goals, objectives and responsibilities of the Commission.

Administrative Hearings Division: Assist the Commission in making an examination of rates and services charged by public utilities and common carriers or Louisiana consumers. Administrative Law Judges manage the process of and conduct hearings in all matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission for which ad judicatory or evidentiary hearing is requested.

Office of General Counsel: General Counsel serves as the legal representative of the Commission at all levels of the judicial system including the 19th judicial court and other state and federal regulatory bodies. In some instances the General Counsel may serve as a hearing examiner. Responsible for adequate and orderly processing of all formal proceedings that are acted upon by the Commission, transcription of public hearings for interested parties and the courts; and filing orders and decisions arising from these proceedings and maintaining accurate filings.

Auditing Division: Primary responsibility is to provide the Commission with accurate and current information with respect to the financial condition and the results of operations of regulated utilities.

Economics Division: Reviews and analyzes rates of return and rate increase proposals by regulated utilities and makes recommendations to the Commission. Provides analytic capabilities to aid the Commission in actively planning and developing policies in regard to the regulation and oversight of regulated utilities.

Utilities Division: Responsible for the maintenance of all rates and conditions of service records filed by regulated utilities. Works closely with the Audit Division to examine and audit costs of electric fuel adjustments and natural gas purchases by natural gas companies. Assist with investigation of complaints that cannot be resolved at the district office level.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 2001-2002	ACT 13 2002-2003	EXISTING 2002-2003	CONTINUATION 2003-2004	RECOMMENDED 2003-2004	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	1,406,311	1,638,181	1,638,181	1,759,948	1,653,898	15,717
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$1,406,311	\$1,638,181	\$1,638,181	\$1,759,948	\$1,653,898	\$15,717
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$847,276	\$981,600	\$981,600	\$1,019,294	\$989,301	\$7,701
Other Compensation	19,548	12,617	12,617	12,617	12,617	0
Related Benefits	217,207	225,200	225,200	275,734	246,209	21,009
Total Operating Expenses	230,541	237,671	233,421	199,566	85,790	(147,631)
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Charges	62,409	115,648	119,898	232,627	291,606	171,708
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	29,330	65,445	65,445	20,110	28,375	(37,070)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$1,406,311	\$1,638,181	\$1,638,181	\$1,759,948	\$1,653,898	\$15,717
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	26	26	26	26	25	(1)
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	26	26	26	26	25	(1)

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded from Statutory Dedications generated from inspection and supervision fees paid by public utilities. "Funds received in the form of supplemental fees are provided in R.S. 45:1177(D) for the Public Service Commission shall be deposited into the state treasury and shall be used solely to fund the activities of the Economics and Rate Analysis Division and the Hearings Examiners Division." (Per R.S. 39.32 B(8), see table below for a listing of expenditures out of each Statutory Dedicated Fund.)

	ACTUAL	ACT 13	EXISTING	CONTINUATION	RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	2003-2004	2003-2004	OVER/(UNDER)
						EXISTING
Supplemental Fee Fund	\$624,562	\$699,962	\$699,962	\$712,717	\$714,535	\$14,573
Utility and Carrier Inspection and Supervision Fund	\$781,749	\$938,219	\$938,219	\$1,047,231	\$939,363	\$1,144

MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$0	\$1,638,181	26	ACT 13 FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$0	\$1,638,181	26	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET - December 2, 2002
\$0	\$18,549	0	Annualization of FY 2002-2003 Classified State Employees Merit Increase
\$0	\$25,647	0	Classified State Employees Merit Increases for FY 2003-2004
\$0	\$28,375	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	(\$65,445)	0	Non-Recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$124,753	0	Rent in State-Owned Buildings
\$0	\$13,165	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	(\$48,332)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	(\$7,701)	0	Salary Funding from Other Line Items
\$0	\$12,436	0	Group Insurance Adjustment
\$0	(\$148,480)	0	Other Non-Recurring Adjustments - Rent for One American Place because of move to Galvez building
\$0	\$3,000	0	Other Adjustments - Funding needed to move agency computer room to ISB building
\$0	\$5,550	0	Other Adjustments - Funding needed to relocate telephone lines to Galvez Building
\$0	\$4,200	0	Other Adjustments - Funding for e-mail cost for 12 months
\$0	\$50,000	0	Other Adjustments - Funding for physical movement to the Galvez Building
\$0	\$0	(1)	Other Technical Adjustments - Transfer of one position from Support Services Program to the Administrative Program to properly align the positions within programs
\$0	\$1,653,898	25	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
\$0	\$0	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$0	\$1,653,898	25	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE:
\$0	\$0	0	None

MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$0	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE
\$0	\$1,653,898	25	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This program does not have funding recommended for Professional Services for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

OTHER CHARGES

\$97,653 Implementation of an electronic imaging system

\$97,653 SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

Interagency Transfers:

\$15,000 Office of Telecommunications Management Fees

\$124,753 Rent in state owned buildings

\$4,200 E-mail costs for 12 months

\$50,000 Funding for physical movement to Galvez Building

\$193,953 SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

\$291,606 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS

\$28,375 Replacement of various office equipment for Administrative Hearings, Economics and Rates, and Information Technology (i.e. desk, credenza, chairs, bookcase, filing cabinet, shredder, portable hearing equipment, software, scanners)

\$28,375 TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS